In Their Own Words

~~CHRONICLES OF THE OCTOPUS~~

Book I - Building the Central Pacific

"Scrambling to the Starting Line"	1861 - 1865
"Tunnels and Snow"	1866 - 1867
"Tunnels, Snow, and Strike"	1867 - 1868
"Over the hump"	1868
"Race to the Finish"	1869

Book II - Building the Southern Pacific

"Extending the Tentacles"	1869 - 1870
"IWant Out!"	1871 - 1872
"Panic & Depression"	1873 - 1874
"The Big Four & a half"	1875 - 1876
"Los Angeles here we come!"	1876 - 1877
"On to Arizona"	1877 - 1878
"Our numbers are dwindling"	1878 - 1879

Book III - The Potentates

"Eastward to Texas"	1879 -

Introduction [Draft]

It is rare that a historian is able to work in primary material not "picked over" by others in the field. It is even rarer that a similar good fortune should strike twice. In researching "The Octopus Speaks" I was fortunate to locate the transcript of the Colton trial. In this work the location of the Huntington Papers was a discovery beyond measure. Scores of ~~XXXXXXX~~ works have been published (the bibliography will serve as guide) regarding the activities of the Crocker brothers, Mark Hopkins, Collis P. Huntington, and Leland Stanford, generally based upon three sources: the letters retained by Mark Hopkins and deposited at the Stanford University Libeary by his posthumously adopted son Timothy, as well as that portion of the Stanford correspondence not destroyed by his wife; the testimony collected by the Pacific Railway Commission in 1887; and the four books of Collected letters, published in 1891, and generally ascribed to Huntington's stepson, Archer M. Huntington.

The most recent biography of one of the Associates, Collis P. Huntington (The Great Persuader) did use newly available material collected by a relative, ~~XX~~ Collis Holliday Huntington. While the judgment of these various writers have been based upon surmise and conjecture, not far off base, the actual information has eluded them. This work then provides the first composite accounting of the activities of these men as they

lived and wrote about it. Most of the correspondence has not been known since its original writers took pen and paper - some one hundred and twenty years ago - to put their thoughts, feelings, and projected course of action to paper.

The source of the Huntington Papers remains confidential

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The purpose of this work is to present for all time the words of the principals involved in the monopoly known in California as the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.

During the early years, 1860 - 1865 little of the correspondence has survived. Therefore, in order to continue the thread of action, additional correspondence has been inserted to provide a fuller view. Only where gaps occur have I interposed the necessary narrative for continuity. [or] Other sources have been used, which it is hoped, will provde the necessary continuity.]